

House Study Bill 610 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON MOORE)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to turtle harvesting in the state and including
2 effective date provisions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.67, Code 2016, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **481A.67 Seasons and limits — turtle harvest seasons —**
4 **moratorium.**

5 1. It is unlawful for a person, except as otherwise
6 expressly provided, to take, capture, or kill fish, frogs,
7 or turtles except during the open season established by the
8 commission. It is unlawful during open season to take in any
9 one day an amount in excess of the daily catch limit designated
10 for each variety or each locality, or have in possession any
11 variety of fish, frog, or turtle in excess of the possession
12 limit, or have in possession any frog, fish, or turtle at any
13 time under the minimum length or weight. The open season,
14 possession limit, daily catch limit, and the minimum length
15 or weight for each variety of fish, frog, or turtle shall be
16 established by rule of the department or commission under the
17 authority of [sections 456A.24, 481A.38, 481A.39, and 482.1.](#)

18 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
19 natural resource commission may adopt rules pursuant to chapter
20 17A establishing seasons that restrict the noncommercial
21 harvest of turtles in any waters of the state pursuant to
22 section 483A.28.

23 3. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
24 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
25 chapter 17A that prohibit commercial turtle harvesting in any
26 waters of the state.

27 b. On or before January 15, 2021, the commission shall
28 conduct a review of the status of the turtle population in
29 the state and shall report its recommendations to the general
30 assembly, made in accordance with sound fish and wildlife
31 management principles, on whether commercial turtle harvesting
32 should be reestablished in the state. This paragraph is
33 repealed effective July 1, 2021.

34 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
35 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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This bill relates to the commercial and noncommercial
harvest of turtles in the waters of the state. The bill
authorizes the natural resource commission to adopt rules
establishing seasons that restrict the noncommercial harvest of
turtles pursuant to a sport fishing license.

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The bill also requires the natural resource commission to
adopt rules prohibiting commercial turtle harvesting in any
waters of the state. The bill provides that after five years,
the commission shall conduct a review of the status of the
turtle population in the state and report its recommendations
to the general assembly, in accordance with sound fish and
wildlife management principles, as to whether commercial turtle
harvesting should be reestablished at that time.

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The bill takes effect upon enactment.